

# EBED



# Sim Pairs

**Commentary by Heather Dhondy**

**Monday**  
**6<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Welcome to the English Bridge Education & Development (EBED) Simultaneous Pairs. The proceeds raised by this event will go to EBED, the national charity for the promotion and development of duplicate bridge. EBED have responded to the challenges of the past year by continuing to improve and develop the infrastructure for bridge teaching in England. This has been achieved by enabling our EBTA (English Bridge Teaching Association) teachers the flexibility to deliver online and classroom-based learning. We have also established a gentle introduction to duplicate bridge through our weekly EBS (English Bridge School) relaxed games. EBED additionally supplies “Bridge for All” teaching materials, organises teacher and director training courses, administers the Junior Award Scheme, organises the Schools Cup and runs the Junior Teach In. We continue to support county organisations and individual volunteers at the local level to run youth events. You can read more about EBED’s activities in the current issue of English Bridge and at [www.ebedcio.org.uk](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk). If you wish to arrange a donation in favour of the charity, please do so at [www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate](http://www.ebedcio.org.uk/donate). Amazon customers can effortlessly support us by switching to AmazonSmile. Do please encourage your friends to come to play in these events which are open to all and raise vital funds for our work. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Giorgio Provenza

Chief Executive English Bridge Education & Development, Registered Charity No: 1153543

<p style="margin: 0;">♠ 5 ♥ AQ642 ♦ QJ75 ♣ 1084</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ AQJ76      ♠ K10842 ♥ J              ♥ 109 ♦ AK102        ♦ 64 ♣ Q52           ♣ K963</p> <p style="margin: 0;">♠ 93 ♥ K8753 ♦ 983 ♣ AJ7</p>	<p>Board 1: Dealer North: Love all</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">What do you respond to your partner’s fourth in hand 1♠ opening with the East cards? 2♠ seems a bit feeble with a fifth trump in this eight-loser hand, so despite holding just six points I would stretch to respond 3♠. This may tempt partner into investigating a slam, however if partner makes a 4♦ cue-bid, your refusal to co-operate should deter West from further action.</p> <p>Since there is always a heart and two clubs to lose, East-West need to stop at the four level.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♠	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
	Pass	Pass	Pass														
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass														
4♦	Pass	4♠	All pass														

  

HCP		Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
9		-	-	2	-	-	
17	6	-	-	2	-	-	
		E	2	1	-	4	1
		W	2	1	-	4	1

<p>♠ KJ73 ♥ Q3 ♦ AJ106 ♣ 1064</p> <p>♠ A10954      ♠ 86 ♥ 652          ♥ AK87 ♦ 98            ♦ Q5 ♣ A75          ♣ KQJ93</p> <p>♠ Q2 ♥ J1094 ♦ K7432 ♣ 82</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>15</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>6</td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	11		N	-	2	-	-	-	8	15	S	-	2	-	-	-		6	E	3	-	2	2	2			W	3	-	2	2	2	<p>Board 2: Dealer East: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>All pass</td></tr> </table> <p>What rebid do you make with the East cards after 1♣-1♠? You are not quite strong enough to reverse into 2♥, and yet 2♣ is an underbid. Especially playing pairs, I would rebid 1NT. The shape is not perfect, but it is a practical bid and lands you in the top scoring part-score.</p> <p>The defence can cash the first five diamond tricks, and even if they do not lead a diamond, declarer has only eight tricks and will cash out for sure, before the opponents are able to find the switch.</p>	West	North	East	South			1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	All pass
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<p>♠ A8 ♥ QJ52 ♦ A42 ♣ A742</p> <p>♠ 1072      ♠ KQJ9643 ♥ AK107    ♥ 4 ♦ QJ103    ♦ 76 ♣ 63        ♣ Q108</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ 9863 ♦ K985 ♣ KJ95</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>7</td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	15		N	3	2	3	-	1	10	8	S	3	2	3	-	1		7	E	-	-	-	2	-			W	-	-	-	2	-	<p>Board 3: Dealer South: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>2♠</td><td>3♥</td></tr> <tr><td>3♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>I expect a wide variety of results here. Over North's 1♥ opening, East may fancy a pre-empt of 3♠. The suit is perfect, but the vulnerability is not. However, if that is East's choice that will probably end the auction. If East decides to overcall just 2♠, this gives South a chance to make a stretched raise to 3♥. West will probably then chip in with 3♠, and North doubles to show a strong NT-type of hand. South knows that game is likely to be a step too far, and does best to pass and hope.</p> <p>The success of the contract boils down to the opening lead. A heart lead is fatal since a diamond loser can be disposed of. On any other lead, declarer has two of each minor, plus a trump to lose, but the minors need to be cashed before declarer gains the lead.</p>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1♥	2♠	3♥	3♠	Dbl	All Pass	
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<p>♠ AJ854 ♥ KQJ43 ♦ 104 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ K109      ♠ Q ♥ A62        ♥ 98 ♦ K86        ♦ AQJ95 ♣ K952      ♣ J8643</p> <p>♠ 7632 ♥ 1075 ♦ 732 ♣ A107</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>4</td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	13		N	-	-	2	3	-	13	10	S	-	-	2	3	-		4	E	3	3	-	-	1			W	3	3	-	-	1	<p>Board 4: Dealer West: All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr> <tr><td>1NT</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td><td>2♠</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td></tr> <tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♣</td><td>All pass</td></tr> </table> <p>Another part-score battle. Playing Landy, North has an easy 2♣ overcall, but what does East do? Ideally East would like to get both minors into the picture, so I would call 2♦, and introduce clubs on the next round. The winning action for East-West is to compete on to 4♣ provided they avoid a double, which will go one down on a heart lead but, 3♠ is making.</p> <p>In 3♠, declarer must cash the ♠A, and then lead towards the jack. Getting to the North hand might be easier said than done if a club is led, however, but there is a very lucky lie of the heart cards that will give you an entry with the seven!</p>	West	North	East	South	1NT	2♣	2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass	Pass	3♠	4♣	All pass
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<p>♠ 632 ♥ AQ864 ♦ QJ3 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ Q108                      ♠ J954 ♥ 3                              ♥ K1052 ♦ K64                          ♦ 9 ♣ AKQJ72                      ♣ 9853</p> <p>♠ AK7 ♥ J97 ♦ A108752 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 5: Dealer North: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Dbl</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>West will overcall 2♣ over 1♦, but consider that there is something in reserve, so that when partner supports, and the opponents compete to 3♦ or 3♥ West will want to take further action. As it happens 3♦ is a comfortable make, but 3♥ fails because of the bad trump break. 4♣ suffers from four top losers, so it is right to take the push if East-West were about to play 3♦, but better to defend if they reach 3♥. These things are very hard to judge, however, and although East has good hearts, there must be some doubt as to whether any club tricks are standing up when holding four of them and partner has overcalled at the two-level.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		Pass	Pass	1♦	2♣	2♥	3♣	3♥	Dbl	Pass	4♣	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
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HCP		Makeable contracts		
9		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT		
15	4	N	-   3   2   -   -	
		S	-   3   2   -   -	
		E	3   -   -   2   1	
		W	3   -   -   2   1	

<p>♠ KJ74 ♥ K104 ♦ Q10854 ♣ 7</p> <p>♠ 96                              ♠ AQ532 ♥ Q932                          ♥ 8765 ♦ J62                              ♦ AK ♣ KQ64                          ♣ A10</p> <p>♠ 108 ♥ AJ ♦ 973 ♣ J98532</p>	<p>Board 6: Dealer East: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">3♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West have a combined 25 count, and yet I think there will be several pairs missing game. East is quite strong for a 2♥ rebid, but the only alternative is to rebid 2NT and lose the heart fit. If East does rebid 2♥, West needs to find a raise, which they should, but I suspect some players will pass. Having said that, game is not all that great. There are likely to be three trump losers, and declarer will need the spade finesse and another trick. However, a likely club lead round to the ten will resolve the problems.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
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HCP		Makeable contracts		
9		♣   ♦   ♥   ♠   NT		
8	17	N	-   1   -   -   -	
		S	-   1   -   -   -	
		E	2   -   4   1   1	
		W	2   -   4   1   1	

<p>♠ Q ♥ J43 ♦ 10942 ♣ AQ1065</p> <p>♠ A7632                          ♠ K105 ♥ K975                              ♥ Q6 ♦ K8                                  ♦ AQ53 ♣ K8                                  ♣ 9732</p> <p>♠ J984 ♥ A1082 ♦ J76 ♣ J4</p>	<p>Board 7: Dealer South: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">2♥</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This looks a normal enough auction, and looking at the East-West cards, it does not seem too bad a contract. Hopefully one trump loser, one heart, and one club. However, with the trumps breaking badly, the contract is destined to fail. It is likely to be just one down unless the defence find a heart lead to the ace and a club switch. Otherwise, a club will be discarded on the third round of diamonds before declarer sets about trumping hearts in dummy.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass		
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13	11	N	-   -   -   -   -	
		S	-   -   -   -   -	
		E	1   1   1   2   1	
		W	1   1   1   2   1	

<p>♠ 65 ♥ 43 ♦ AK108 ♣ AKQJ10</p> <p>♠ Q9                      ♠ AKJ1083 ♥ AKQ1085              ♥ J ♦ 65                        ♦ J92 ♣ 962                      ♣ 543</p> <p>♠ 742 ♥ 9762 ♦ Q743 ♣ 87</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>10</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		17		N	3	2	-	-	-	11	10	S	3	2	-	-	-			E	-	-	2	2	-		2	W	-	-	2	2	-	<p>Board 8: Dealer West: Love all</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>Despite the promising look of three out of the four hands, no one can make anything very much on this board, and if you end up with a plus score, you will not have done too badly.</p> <p>North-South can make 3♣, having just two tricks in each major suit to lose, however 3♦ suffers a trump promotion if the opponents get the defence right. They need to take four major suit tricks, and then lead another heart from the West hand. The J9 of diamonds with East are just enough to secure a trick in the suit.</p> <p>East-West can always be held to eight tricks in either major, with five minor suit losers – a defence North is unlikely to find too taxing!</p>	West	North	East	South	1♥	2♣	2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass	3♠	All pass
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<p>♠ 10764 ♥ AJ84 ♦ 976 ♣ 65</p> <p>♠ K982                      ♠ AJ5 ♥ -                            ♥ 109752 ♦ KQJ10853              ♦ 4 ♣ AQ                        ♣ K1032</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ KQ63 ♦ A2 ♣ J9874</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>8</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		5		N	-	-	-	-	-	15	8	S	-	-	1	-	-			E	1	6	-	3	2		12	W	1	6	-	3	2	<p>Board 9: Dealer North: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6♦</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This powerful West hand creates an interesting bidding problem. Firstly, you need to decide what to do over South's 1♣. It has a lot of potential, even opposite a passed hand, so I would double and show my diamonds next time around. When partner makes a jump response, your 3♦ bid becomes game forcing. Partner will bid 3NT, but West is not done yet and cue-bids 4. When partner by-passes hearts, and cue-bids spades, the West hand will have slam in mind. Partner cannot have enough for a grand as a passed hand, but 6♦ looks a fair bet.</p> <p>If North begins with the ♥A, you can place nearly all other cards in the South hand for the opening bid, and get the spades right.</p>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass	6♦	All pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																																							
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																																			
5		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																																		
15	8	S	-	-	1	-	-																																																																		
		E	1	6	-	3	2																																																																		
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<p>♠ A532 ♥ K84 ♦ A105 ♣ AJ10</p> <p>♠ K10974                      ♠ J6 ♥ 7                            ♥ A632 ♦ 76                        ♦ Q84 ♣ 95432                      ♣ KQ86</p> <p>♠ Q8 ♥ QJ1095 ♦ KJ932 ♣ 7</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>12</td> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9</td> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		16		N	-	4	5	-	4	3	12	S	-	4	5	-	4			E	3	-	-	-	-		9	W	3	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 10: Dealer East: All vulnerable</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>4♥</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What is your preferred defence to 1NT? It is important to be able to show two-suiters as these are hands that you want to be competing on in the auction. One of the most popular these days is multi-Landy, where 2♣ shows the majors, 2♦ one major, and 2♥/♠ shows that major and a minor. The North hand has an easy raise to game.</p> <p>There is little to the play since declarer is going to get diamonds right on the auction as well as being the percentage play in the suit. All the defence can take, therefore is one spade and one heart.</p>	West	North	East	South			1NT	2♥	2♠	4♥	All pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																											
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																							
16		N	-	4	5	-	4																																																						
3	12	S	-	4	5	-	4																																																						
		E	3	-	-	-	-																																																						
	9	W	3	-	-	-	-																																																						
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<p>♠ 82 ♥ A107 ♦ KJ986 ♣ 754</p> <p>♠ AKQ5                      ♠ 7643 ♥ K52                        ♥ 963 ♦ 102                         ♦ A75 ♣ J962                       ♣ AKQ</p> <p>♠ J109 ♥ QJ84 ♦ Q43 ♣ 1083</p>	<p>Board 11: Dealer South: Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>The field will be divided between those playing in 3NT and those in 4♠. 3NT has nine easy top tricks, and declarer will be held to nine on the likely diamond lead from North.</p> <p>In 4♠, declarer can make it provided it is played by West (which will be the case playing a weak NT) so that a heart lead through the king is not possible, however declarer will need to be careful. North is not going to lead a heart, and other leads make little difference. Declarer needs to draw two rounds of trumps before risking three rounds of clubs. Now cross to the third round of spades and discard a heart on the ♣A. With a diamond ruff in one hand and a heart ruff in the other, declarer gets to ten tricks losing just two hearts and a diamond, to outscore those in 3NT.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
			Pass														
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass														
2♠	Pass	4♠	All pass														

HCP	8	13	13
	13	6	

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	1	-	-	-	
S	-	1	-	-	-	
E	3	-	1	3	3	
W	3	-	1	4	3	

<p>♠ 974 ♥ Q7642 ♦ J7 ♣ 1053</p> <p>♠ K83                        ♠ QJ5 ♥ 5                            ♥ AJ3 ♦ 93                          ♦ Q652 ♣ AQJ8742                ♣ K96</p> <p>♠ A1062 ♥ K1098 ♦ AK1084 ♣ -</p>	<p>Board 12: Dealer West: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbf</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♣</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open the West hand? It is borderline between 1♣ and 3♣, however at this vulnerability, a 3♣ opening can be very weak, so I would open this 1♣. West might decide to respond 3NT which may well shut South out of the auction, however if East responds 1♦, South will double and North-South will compete in hearts.</p> <p>North-South do well to find a save in 4♥ over 3NT, despite the adverse vulnerability, since it is only one down, and even then, the defence will need to be accurate to beat it at all.</p> <p>3NT is a fortunate make. After a heart lead to the queen and ace, declarer can drive out the ♠A and, with North unable to gain the lead, the defence are only able to take a heart, a spade and two diamonds.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1♣	Pass	1♦	Dbf	2♣	2♥	3NT	All pass
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1♣	Pass	1♦	Dbf										
2♣	2♥	3NT	All pass										

HCP	3	10	13
	14		

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	-	1	3	1	-	
S	-	1	3	1	-	
E	4	-	-	-	3	
W	4	-	-	-	1	

<p>♠ Q107 ♥ Q ♦ AQ1032 ♣ A1097</p> <p>♠ J8                         ♠ 42 ♥ A109852                ♥ J74 ♦ K976                    ♦ J5 ♣ 6                         ♣ KQJ853</p> <p>♠ AK9653 ♥ K63 ♦ 84 ♣ 42</p>	<p>Board 13: Dealer North: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>I expect most pairs to play in 4♠, but how many tricks will be made? It is possible to make twelve tricks even after the likely club lead, but it is very fortunate. Declarer needs to cross to the South hand with a trump and take a diamond finesse, cash the ace, and ruff a diamond. Now a trump to hand reveals the first piece of good fortune that trumps are breaking two-two. Trump a fourth diamond and lead a heart. West can take the ace but has no club to play. Declarer simply need to ruff the final heart in the North hand and discard South's remaining club on the established diamond. The field will be divided mainly between 4♠ making eleven or twelve tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
	1♦	Pass	1♠																		
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠																		
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠																		
All pass																					

HCP	14	8	8
	8	10	

Makeable contracts						
	♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	
N	1	3	-	6	4	
S	1	3	-	6	4	
E	-	-	1	-	-	
W	-	-	1	-	-	

<p>♠ K108 ♥ QJ872 ♦ K10965 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ Q97                      ♠ AJ65 ♥ K653                      ♥ 109 ♦ A32                        ♦ 4 ♣ QJ5                        ♣ K107643</p> <p>♠ 432 ♥ A4 ♦ QJ87 ♣ A982</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>8</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>4</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	9		N	-	3	1	-	-	12	8	S	-	3	1	-	-			E	4	-	-	2	1			W	4	-	-	2	1	<p>Board 14: Dealer East: Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This is another good advertisement for playing a defence to 1NT that allows you to show a two-suited hand. On the auction above, 2♥ showed hearts and a minor, East's 3♣ was competing, and South's double asks partner to pass if the minor is clubs, or correct to 3♦. As it happens, the cards are lying favourably for East-West and they can make 4♣, but I suspect that there will be plenty selling out to 3♦, which also makes.</p>	West	North	East	South			Pass	Pass	1NT	2♥	3♣	Dbl	Pass	3♦	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
9		N	-	3	1	-	-																																																									
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1NT	2♥	3♣	Dbl																																																													
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<p>♠ 852 ♥ 982 ♦ K72 ♣ J1093</p> <p>♠ J7                              ♠ 9643 ♥ AJ643                      ♥ KQ5 ♦ 86543                      ♦ J ♣ 7                                ♣ A8652</p> <p>♠ AKQ10 ♥ 107 ♦ AQ109 ♣ KQ4</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>10</td><td>S</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	4		N	2	2	-	1	1	6	10	S	2	2	-	1	1			E	-	-	1	-	-			W	-	-	1	-	-	<p>Board 15: Dealer South: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2NT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The North hand is very borderline for a raise to 3NT over 2NT, and as it happens the defence have six tricks to take so those stopping in 2NT will do better. If the defence do not begin by taking their tricks, declarer should make 2NT since both jacks in diamonds and spades fall early and so there are four tricks available in each of those suits.</p>	West	North	East	South				2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																										
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																						
4		N	2	2	-	1	1																																																					
6	10	S	2	2	-	1	1																																																					
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<p>♠ Q852 ♥ 532 ♦ 863 ♣ 853</p> <p>♠ KJ3                              ♠ 1064 ♥ QJ108                      ♥ K4 ♦ 102                              ♦ AQ954 ♣ QJ97                        ♣ AK2</p> <p>♠ A97 ♥ A976 ♦ KJ7 ♣ 1064</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr><th colspan="2">HCP</th><th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><th>♣</th><th>♦</th><th>♥</th><th>♠</th><th>NT</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td></td><td>N</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>16</td><td>S</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>E</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>W</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	2		N	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	S	-	-	-	-	-			E	3	2	3	1	3			W	3	2	3	1	3	<p>Board 16: Dealer West: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Virtually everyone will play 3NT on this board and the number of tricks made becomes the crucial factor here. South's choice of lead is important. It is likely that West will have shown a heart suit in the auction whatever range of NT is played, so the choices are between the black suits. On a spade lead, declarer will come to nine tricks via three hearts, four clubs, a spade, and a heart. However, on a passive club lead declarer could go wrong. Of course hearts will be played, and if South continues with a club and declarer cashes the clubs and hearts and tries a diamond finesse, it will become necessary to guess the spades when South leads one to make the contract.</p>	West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass		
HCP		Makeable contracts																																																														
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT																																																										
2		N	-	-	-	-	-																																																									
10	16	S	-	-	-	-	-																																																									
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<p>                     ♠ K8                      ♥ KQJ9                      ♦ A985                      ♣ K53                      ♠ A3                      ♠ 7654                      ♥ 865                      ♥ 1042                      ♦ QJ10743                ♦ 6                      ♣ A2                      ♣ Q10764                      ♠ QJ1092                      ♥ A73                      ♦ K2                      ♣ J98                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 577 193 763"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 577 475 763"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		16		11	2	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	2	2	5	4	4	S	2	2	5	4	4	E	-	-	-	-	-	W	-	-	-	-	-	<p>Board 17: Dealer North: Love all</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♦</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Playing Acol, North opens 1♥ and South responds 1♠. What do you do with the North cards after West overcalls 2♦? The winning action is to take a penalty as it should go down three, however most pairs do not play this double as for penalties, and more usually shows a strong NT type of hand. The South hand will be uncertain of the right contract as partner's length in the majors is not precisely known, so tries 3♦. North is then happy to play 3NT.</p> <p>West will do well to lead partner's suit as this is the only lead to hold the contract to ten tricks. Declarer will drive out the ♠A and West will establish the diamonds ready for when declarer plays on clubs. This restricts declarer to four of each major and two diamonds.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦	Dbl	Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT	All pass	
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<p>                     ♠ K3                      ♥ Q54                      ♦ KQ543                      ♣ 985                      ♠ J95                      ♠ AQ8                      ♥ K9                      ♥ J1087632                      ♦ J76                      ♦ 92                      ♣ AQ1074                ♣ J                      ♠ 107642                      ♥ A                      ♦ A108                      ♣ K632                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 1272 193 1458"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>10</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 1272 475 1458"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		10		11	8	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	2	-	-	1	S	-	2	-	-	1	E	1	-	3	-	-	W	1	-	3	-	-	<p>Board 18: Dealer East: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There will be some variety here. The East hand is not everyone's idea of a 3♥ opening, but the vulnerability favours pre-emption. If East does open, that will probably end the auction, and 3♥ will lose just four red suit tricks to make exactly.</p> <p>If East passes, the hand could get passed out, but more likely either South or West will open the bidding. If South opens 1♠ and rebids 2♠ over partner's 2♦ response, that will not play well and will probably fail by two tricks for the dreaded -200. East is unlikely to remain silent through-out, however, but will do well to stop off and defend 2♠.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			3♥	All Pass								
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<p>                     ♠ QJ43                      ♥ 962                      ♦ 10854                      ♣ K8                      ♠ 87                      ♠ A10                      ♥ AJ1084                ♥ K53                      ♦ 963                      ♦ AQ72                      ♣ A109                    ♣ J543                      ♠ K9652                      ♥ Q7                      ♦ KJ                      ♣ Q762                 </p> <table border="1" data-bbox="73 1951 193 2130"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>6</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="233 1951 475 2130"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>♣</th> <th>♦</th> <th>♥</th> <th>♠</th> <th>NT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	HCP		6		9	14	11		Makeable contracts							♣	♦	♥	♠	NT	N	-	-	-	2	-	S	-	-	-	2	-	E	3	3	4	-	2	W	3	3	4	-	2	<p>Board 19: Dealer South: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>West</b></th> <th><b>North</b></th> <th><b>East</b></th> <th><b>South</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♥</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Would you open the South hand? It is a poor eleven count with weak suits, but you do have spades, and you are at favourable vulnerability. I think it is just about worth opening, however when East doubles North raise to 2♠, West will respond 3♥ and that is likely to end the auction. In practice, although ten tricks can be made, declarer is likely to get hearts right and diamonds wrong, emerging with nine tricks.</p> <p>In spades there are just five tricks to lose, so pushing on to 3♠ is the winning action, non-vulnerable, unless East-West bid to 4♥ and take a good view in the play.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				1♠	Pass	2♠	Dbl	Pass	3♥	All Pass		
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<p>♠ KQ3 ♥ A632 ♦ A92 ♣ 1043</p> <p>♠ A65                      ♠ J10982 ♥ Q109                      ♥ 5 ♦ J643                      ♦ 87 ♣ AJ9                      ♣ KQ865</p> <p>♠ 74 ♥ KJ874 ♦ KQ105 ♣ 72</p>	<p>Board 20: Dealer West: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Can North-South find a way into the bidding? One possibility is to double the 2♥ transfer to show hearts. Another is to protect with the South hand when 2♠ is passed back to you. However, neither action is clear-cut, so there will be plenty defending 2♠. 2♠ has five obvious losers, but that is all so it should make exactly. On the other hand, 3♥ has only four tricks to lose so that also makes.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass										
2♠	All pass												

HCP		Makeable contracts					
13	6		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
12		N	-	2	3	-	1
9		S	-	2	3	-	1
		E	2	-	-	2	-
		W	2	-	-	2	-

<p>♠ AQJ92 ♥ KJ10 ♦ Q2 ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ K                      ♠ 65 ♥ 842                      ♥ A953 ♦ J10854                      ♦ 9763 ♣ A854                      ♣ K32</p> <p>♠ 108743 ♥ Q76 ♦ AK ♣ J76</p>	<p>Board 21: Dealer North: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4♠ looks a very normal contract, and declarers will be pleased to see the singleton king of trumps pop up on the first round. The contract is a little fortunate since it needs the trumps to come in and also for the defence to be unable to take a club ruff. I can't see there being much variety here. Virtually all tables will score 4♠ just making.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
	1♠	Pass	3♠										
Pass	4♠	All pass											

HCP		Makeable contracts					
15	7		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
8		N	1	-	1	4	3
10		S	1	-	1	4	3
		E	-	1	-	-	-
		W	-	1	-	-	-

<p>♠ 63 ♥ KQ4 ♦ A95 ♣ K8532</p> <p>♠ Q                      ♠ J97 ♥ AJ10752                      ♥ 96 ♦ J762                      ♦ K108 ♣ Q10                      ♣ A9764</p> <p>♠ AK108542 ♥ 83 ♦ Q43 ♣ J</p>	<p>Board 22: Dealer East: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>West</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>North</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>East</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♥</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>What do you open the South hand in second seat? Your choices are between 1♠ and 4♠. If you open 4♠, that will probably end the auction, but even if you open 1♠, you are likely to end up there anyway on an auction similar to that above. The success of the contract depends on getting trumps right. When the queen appears on your left on the first round, the odds favour crossing to dummy and finessing. With the ♦K and ♥A in a favourable spot for you the best the defence can do is to begin with ace and another heart. There are still options to make it, but one line is to play a third heart which will resolve the trump position and later lead a diamond towards the queen.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	1♠	2♥	3♣	Pass	4♠	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
		Pass	1♠														
2♥	3♣	Pass	4♠														
All Pass																	

HCP		Makeable contracts					
12	8		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10		N	-	-	-	4	4
10		S	-	-	-	4	3
		E	1	1	2	-	-
		W	1	1	2	-	-

<p>♠ A107 ♥ KJ98743 ♦ - ♣ J87</p> <p>♠ QJ53            ♠ K82 ♥ A                ♥ Q62 ♦ J65              ♦ A1042 ♣ K10954        ♣ AQ3</p> <p>♠ 964 ♥ 105 ♦ KQ9873 ♣ 62</p>	<p>Board 23: Dealer South: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>3NT</td> <td>All Pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>East-West are likely to end up in 3NT by some means, quite possibly via the auction above, but the question is how many tricks will be made?</p> <p>Provided South doesn't lead a low diamond, giving a cheap trick in the suit, declarer should be held to ten tricks. On a heart lead, declarer will drive out the ♠A, and North must avoid continuing hearts, allowing the queen to be scored. On the run of the black suits, South needs to hold on to the heart, to avoid being endplayed in diamonds.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	3♥	3NT	All Pass																																				
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<p>♠ J109 ♥ Q982 ♦ K107 ♣ Q42</p> <p>♠ Q                ♠ 87652 ♥ AJ5            ♥ 74 ♦ Q985432      ♦ J ♣ 93              ♣ J10876</p> <p>♠ AK43 ♥ K1063 ♦ A6 ♣ AK5</p>	<p>Board 24: Dealer West: Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">All pass</td> </tr> </table> <p>This is another slightly off-centre pre-empt, but I expect most pairs to open 3♦. This will be passed round to South who doubles and will raise partner's 3♥ to four.</p> <p>The diamond lead looks a stand-out, and when declarer plays a trump from dummy, West can rise with the ace and give partner a ruff to hold the contract to eleven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	3♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass																																			
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<p>♠ AKQ ♥ J743 ♦ K1063 ♣ A7</p> <p>♠ 76                ♠ J1085 ♥ K9652          ♥ AQ108 ♦ 97                ♦ A54 ♣ Q632            ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ 9432 ♥ - ♦ QJ82 ♣ KJ1054</p>	<p>Board 25: Dealer North: EW vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td><b>West</b></td> <td><b>North</b></td> <td><b>East</b></td> <td><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Although North-South can make a lot of tricks in diamonds, I expect most pairs to be playing a NT part-score by North.</p> <p>If the contract is played by North, the most the defence can take is four heart tricks and ♦A. If played by South, a heart lead through North enables the defence to take five tricks in the suit and hold the contract to seven tricks, however it will normally be played by North, whatever range of no trump is played.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	All pass																																					
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">HCP</th> <th colspan="6">Makeable contracts</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>♣</td> <td>♦</td> <td>♥</td> <td>♠</td> <td>NT</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>11</td> <td>S</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>E</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>W</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	HCP		Makeable contracts								♣	♦	♥	♠	NT		17		N	3	5	-	3	2	5	11	S	3	5	-	3	1		7	E	-	-	1	-	-			W	-	-	1	-	-	
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	7	E	-	-	1	-	-																																										
		W	-	-	1	-	-																																										

<p>♠ A965 ♥ 5432 ♦ K5 ♣ 653</p> <p>♠ 842                      ♠ QJ7 ♥ KQ86                    ♥ A97 ♦ A97                        ♦ Q8632 ♣ KQ10                    ♣ 42</p> <p>♠ K103 ♥ J10 ♦ J104 ♣ AJ987</p>	<p>Board 26: Dealer East: All vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This will be a popular contract for those playing a weak NT. On the normal spade lead the defence can establish three tricks in the suit to go with the diamond and club to hold the contract to eight tricks. On a heart lead, however, declarer can establish the diamonds in time and come to nine tricks with the lucky lie in hearts.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1NT	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
		Pass	Pass										
1NT	All Pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
7	N	1	-	-	-	-
14      9	S	1	-	-	-	-
10	E	-	3	3	1	2
	W	-	3	3	1	2

<p>♠ K10 ♥ AJ42 ♦ K873 ♣ AQ10</p> <p>♠ AQJ3                      ♠ 654 ♥ K                            ♥ 109876 ♦ A65                        ♦ QJ92 ♣ K8752                    ♣ 9</p> <p>♠ 9872 ♥ Q53 ♦ 104 ♣ J643</p>	<p>Board 27: Dealer South: Love all</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♣</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>This auction looks fairly normal although West will be tempted to take further action in the pass out seat. North will know that all the high cards are with West, but that entries to dummy are very few. If a heart is led to the king and ace, that gives dummy one entry and declarer will probably play clubs from hand to establish the jack. Once West has won the king, a passive club back is best, and declarer can lead towards one of the kings to come to seven tricks.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				Pass	1♣	1NT	All pass	
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			Pass										
1♣	1NT	All pass											

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
17	N	1	-	1	-	1
17      3	S	1	-	1	-	1
3	E	-	-	-	-	-
	W	-	-	-	1	-

<p>♠ 876 ♥ Q10 ♦ A1072 ♣ KJ72</p> <p>♠ AKQ4                      ♠ 1052 ♥ J87                        ♥ A6532 ♦ QJ5                        ♦ 983 ♣ AQ5                        ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ J93 ♥ K94 ♦ K64 ♣ 10643</p>	<p>Board 28: Dealer West: NS vulnerable</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>West</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>North</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>East</b></td> <td style="text-align: left;"><b>South</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: left;">All pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>There will not be much bidding on this hand. Playing Acol, West will probably buy it in 1♠. North has a difficult opening lead. Knowing that declarer will be strong and dummy weak, you will not want to lead away from your tenace in clubs. Diamonds and hearts also look unattractive, so a trump might be led as the least of evils. A normal line of play would now be to cross to the ♥A and try and club finesse. When this fails and a trump is continued, you can still secure seven tricks by taking a club ruff in dummy.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>				All pass	1♠	All pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>										
			All pass										
1♠	All pass												

HCP	Makeable contracts					
		♣	♦	♥	♠	NT
10	N	1	-	-	-	-
19      4	S	1	-	-	-	-
7	E	-	-	2	1	-
	W	-	-	2	2	1



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